

Plaza Voice
Village of Great Neck Plaza
 September 2020



Mayor Jean A. Celender, Deputy Mayor Ted M. Rosen
 Trustees Ted M. Rosen, Gerry Schneiderman, Pam Marksheid,
 and Lawrence R. Katz
 Clerk Treasurer - Patricia O'Byrne
 Editor - Pam Marksheid

Have Your Voices Heard: Village Elections are on September 15th

While the majority of Americans associate going to the polls to cast their votes with the first Tuesday in November, the fact of the matter is across the country local municipalities hold their own elections throughout the calendar year. This is especially true on the Village level, where elections are held corresponding with its fiscal year. Since the Plaza's fiscal year is March 1st to February 28th, we typically hold our elections in March.

That being stated, nothing is typical about this year's local elections. Originally, our village elections were supposed to be on March 18th, 2020, however due to the coronavirus pandemic, the elections were postponed in an executive order by Governor Andrew Cuomo to Tuesday, September 15th from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. The Plaza will be holding its Village elections at Village Hall, 2 Gussack Plaza, Great Neck, NY 11021, for the following elected offices; the office of the Mayor (1) and two (2) Trustee positions, with each elected position serving a two-year term.

Plaza residents who are not registered to vote can still register with Nassau County Board of Elections through Friday, September 4th. Voter registration forms

are available at Village Hall or online via the Board of Elections' website at the following address;

<https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/11812>.



For those Plaza residents who will be away on election day or socially distancing, you can request an absentee ballot one of two ways: 1) Residents can request an absentee ballot be mailed to their home through Tuesday, September 8th, or 2) Receive an absentee ballot in-person at

Village Hall through Monday, September 14th.

On Election Day, designated voter parking will be reserved in the outdoor municipal lot across the street from Village Hall to make voting easier.

For more information about the Plaza's local elections, please call the Village Clerk-Treasurer, Patricia O'Byrne, at Village Hall during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, between 9 A.M. and 4:45 P.M., at (516) 482-4500.

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VGNP ELECTIONS NOTICE



Village of Great Neck Plaza residents, please take note that the Plaza will be holding its Village elections on Tues., Sept. 15th, from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. at Village Hall, 2 Gussack Plaza, Great Neck, NY 11021.

For more information, please contact the Clerk-Treasurer at (516) 482-4500.

Message from the Mayor

Dear Friends,

In this aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, local governments (Villages and Towns) and state governments have struggled as tax revenues and other fees fall short of projections. We have infrastructure projects slated to be done; however, these projects are being done with reimbursable grants, meaning we have to outlay monies first and wait to be paid back from the sponsoring agency. In this new economically-strapped climate, these agencies may also not want to be paying as quickly as they did before because their fiscal situation also requires them to take prudent measures now. It shifts construction improvements to a focus of --- can we afford to start it now? Ultimately with the grants accounted for, we end up paying “0%” to 20% of the project costs depending on the agency and program. It’s a small fraction of the total costs and is a real savings and way to get projects funded. But you have to have a period of good cash flow to sustain contractor payments, prepare invoices to the sponsoring agency and wait for monies to be reimbursed.

I have written about the traffic calming projects that my administration has done over the past 20 years. These seven (7) major projects, totaling almost \$5 M, have been significant for slowing down traffic, rehabilitating the roadway, creating safer pedestrian walkways and crossings, and greening the Village by providing additional trees, shade and sustainable stormwater management components. There’s an adage in planning that people rarely remember the area prior to the improvement. However, with the onset of Google and other photo-imaginary software, “before” and “after” photographs can be provided as reminders of what we changed in the process of improving and strengthening our infrastructure. It is a true representation and will enlighten folks.



Our residents want improved infrastructure delivered at reasonable costs and being able to stretch limited resources. The design approved by our sponsor for the Transportation Enhancement Project on Welwyn Road/Shoreward Drive by the New York State Department of Transportation has been designed to federal standards and guidelines. These are the same standards used on our interstate highways and other major arterials found in larger communities. The reason being New York State DOT wants even localities to build infrastructure that will last, and we can say proudly that we have done that!

Sincerely,

Jean A. Celender, Mayor



“Before” looking at Welwyn Road and Shoreward Drive with only a painted median between vehicles; a dangerous condition.



“After” looking at the USPS Post Office, 1 Welwyn Road, and the completed project, with a constructed median, highly visible crosswalk and bicycle sharrow.



COVID-19 Update As of August 2020

COVID-19 Update – U.S. Senator Gillibrand Co-sponsors Bipartisan Restart Act to Support Small and Mid-Sized Businesses

Steven Mnuchin recently voiced support for its inclusion.

Specifically, the *RESTART Act* would:

The Village was honored to participate in a Live Zoom Meeting with U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand hosted on August 19th by Vision Long Island and the LI Main Street Alliance. The Senator joined a group of more than 30 participants including mayors of downtowns, civic organizations, economic development agencies and financial institutions. There are 30 senators to cosponsor the bipartisan Reviving the Economy Sustainably Towards a Recovery in Twenty-Twenty (RESTART) Act to support small- and mid-sized businesses that have been hit the hardest by the coronavirus crises. While the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was intended to support small- and mid-sized businesses weather the economic crisis caused by COVID-19, many have slipped through the cracks and are struggling to maintain operations and pay their employees. Theaters and live events, restaurants and hospitality make up a significant part of New York's economy and have faced unprecedented revenue losses since March.

Across the country, independent venues are forecasted to lose almost \$9 billion in revenue if the rest of 2020 remains dark and the majority expect to permanently close if shutdowns persist and no federal funding becomes available. The RESTART Act would provide a lifeline for these small businesses, which have been unable to access PPP by creating a new loan program to fund 6 months of payroll, benefits, and fixed operating expenses for businesses that have lost substantial revenue due to the pandemic.

“Small businesses — including theaters, venues, and restaurants — make New York a world renowned destination and we must help them survive this economic crisis,” said Senator Gillibrand. “Unfortunately the PPP program didn't go far enough to support small businesses across the country, but the RESTART Act would help fill the gaps and ensure they receive the support they deserve. I'm proud to work with my colleagues across the aisle to push for this important legislation in the next relief package.”

Senator Gillibrand and her colleagues are calling for the inclusion of the RESTART Act in the next coronavirus relief package. U.S. Treasury Secretary

- Provide access to loans to cover 6 months of payroll, benefits, and fixed operating expenses for small and mid-sized businesses and nonprofits that have suffered significant revenue losses and would provide an extended 12-month covered loan period for businesses that have seen revenues decline by at least 80 percent;

- Forgive a share of loans based on revenue declines suffered by the recipient in 2020 (or during the six-month covered loan period) compared to a year earlier, with the remainder to be paid back over 7 years, with generous loan terms. Businesses with fewer than 5,000 employees would receive even more favorable terms on loan forgiveness;

- Offer more favorable loan terms to nonprofits, including a longer duration and a lower interest rate;

- Defer interest payments for the first year of the loan, and defers principal payments for the first 2 years, with additional deferral available to economically distressed firms;

- Build an origination fee structure designed to provide an incentive for banks and other financial institutions to assist the smallest businesses;

- Allow businesses to choose when to rehire their workers and when to deploy the capital;

Provide a 100% loan guarantee from the federal government.

Call your U.S. senators, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Senator Charles Schumer, and let them know you support the Restart Act. Let them know you believe it must include provisions to help small- to mid-sized businesses on Long Island that have been largely ignored in the economic relief programs passed thus far to combat the crisis caused by COVID-19. Anything short of that goal will not be enough.

Tropical Storm Isaias Recap

Prepared by Trustee Pam Marksheid

On Aug.4, Long Island as well as other communities in the Metropolitan area was badly hit by Tropical Storm Isaias. Although meteorologists had warned us in advance that the storm was approaching, our power companies seemed to be totally unprepared for the storm damage that was about to occur. We will not know the full answer to why we were unprepared until New York, New Jersey and Connecticut are done with their investigations of their public utilities. But that does little to calm the tempers of those residents who lost power, cable, internet service, and in some cases, necessary medical equipment.

On the Great Neck peninsula, we had countless areas with uprooted trees, downed electrical wires, and damaged homes. Local officials, who have secure phone lines to the top management, were themselves unable to reach someone to get answers. Kim Kaiman, External Affairs Manager at PSEG-LI held telephone conference calls on the days following the

storm for local officials to get updated figures for restoration efforts and how many residents were still out of power. When Mayor Celender and Trustee Marksheid called in on Aug. 5th and 6th, they received information regarding how bad the storm was, asked questions and listened as many elected officials complained about the lack of communication, as well as slow progress in getting repairs done for their communities. But they were not alone, for the Great Neck Plaza staff was also trying to assist our residents with PSEG-LI. The Commissioner/Superintendent of the Building Department, Rich Belziti, played an active role in getting the electricity back on for many residents. He was on the phone day after day with his contacts at PSEG-LI reminding them that some streets were completely blocked by fallen trees and there were countless dangerous wires just hanging down.

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Fourth Quarter Parking Permit Purchase/Renewal Period Begins

Those people who currently hold a residential, commercial or commuter permit in Maple Drive and Plaza Centre Garages can begin their fourth quarter parking permit renewals on Monday, September 21st. To purchase any parking permit within the Village of Great Neck Plaza, you will need to provide a current driver's license and registration.

GREAT NECK PLAZA	
MAKE	
PERMIT NO.	
PLATE NO.	
EXP. DATE	

renewal form. For first time commuter permit applicants, please fill out a commuter permit purchase form. Please note, the price for a quarterly commuter parking permit is \$250 which is non refundable. These documents can be found on the Village website at www.greatneckplaza.net under the "Forms and Applications" Tab.

For those Plaza residents applying for a garage permit whose driver's license and/or registration does not reflect a valid Plaza address, you will need to provide documented proof of Village residency (utility bills or bank statements) and/or a letter from the co-op or apartment board president stating that you live at the address claimed. For those who work in the Plaza and are applying/renewing your commercial parking permit, you will need to provide proof of employment at a valid Plaza business. Currently, commercial and residential garage parking permits are \$90 for the quarter, and are processed between the hours of 9 a.m. & 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. & 1 p.m.

To save time, permit renewals can also be done through the mail. Should you utilize this option, we ask that permit holders provide a copy of their license, registration and completed permit application form (this can also be found at www.greatneckplaza.net). Furthermore, if you provide a self-addressed stamped envelope, the Village will mail your parking permit to you when processed.

Permits can be purchased via check or money order, payable to 'Village of Great Neck Plaza,' or credit card, only available at Village Hall, (3% service fee applies). Please note, cash payments will not be accepted. For more information, please call Village Hall, (516) 482-4500, or visit the parking permit section at www.greatneckplaza.net.

For those applying for commuter permits, if you are renewing your commuter garage permit, please fill out a



Did You Know ??

Nassau County Traffic Safety Study

In Great Neck, the Middle Neck Road Traffic Safety Evaluation study includes Middle Neck Road from Darley Road/Susquehanna Avenue to Redbrook Road. As part of the study by Nassau County, engineering recommendations to slow traffic in the area to improve the pedestrian and vehicular environment will be made. Improvements to be analyzed include, bicycle lanes, curb extensions and bump-outs, pedestrian refuge medians, signal timing modifications, lane diets, driver feedback devices, turn lanes and additional traffic signals.

Nassau County works to utilize the latest technologies to improve safety including the most up-to-date treatments available in pavement markings, signs, signals and beacons, and the use of Rectangular Rapidly Flashing Beacons (RRFB). Three RRFB locations were installed between 2017-2019; on Atlantic Avenue at Union in Lynbrook, East Williston Avenue at the East Williston Middle School in East Williston, and Tulip Avenue in Floral Park. An additional RRFB is being designed for Nassau Boulevard in Garden City South. The Plaza has requested this RRFB treatment on Grace Avenue at Park Place.

All non-motorized crossings are signed using highly reflective material (Fluorescent Strong Yellow Green) which is most visible in low light conditions, i.e. dawn/dusk in fall and winter season. DPW consistently replaces old pedestrian signal displays with new pedestrian count down signals which better inform the pedestrians of their crossing time. Pedestrian facilities were upgraded or enhanced at 129 existing signals between 2017 and 2019. Additional upgrades are highlighted below. Nassau County DPW approaches every project with the goal of creating Complete Streets, which are public rights-of-way that account for all types of users and activities, including vehicles, transit, pedestrians and bicyclists. The objective is to make our streets safe and inviting for all users and modes of transportation and to improve the quality of life for Nassau County residents and visitors. Currently, there are five Complete Streets projects underway in Baldwin, Atlantic Beach/East Atlantic Beach, Hicksville, Barnum Island and Great Neck Plaza.

Why is our Downtown Important ?

As a planning professional, I am aware of the importance of a vital downtown to our community. Our Marketing Brochure includes some of the reasons, however, here's a more detailed list of reasons why we should all value our beautiful downtown even more.

1. Downtowns, no matter how small, are prominent employment centers.
2. Downtowns play a major role as business centers and serve as incubators for new businesses.
3. Most businesses in the downtown are independently owned. They support a local family that in turn supports the local schools, stores and government. These independent businesses keep profits in the community.
4. The downtown is a reflection of how the community sees itself. We all need to support its livability and keep it a vibrant quality of life to show our success and local interest.
5. The downtown represents a significant portion of the community's tax base. If the business district declines, property values will decrease, which subsequently increases the tax burden in other areas.
6. The downtown is an indispensable shopping and service center. It offers unique shopping and service opportunities not available in large, cookie-cutter shopping centers.
7. Our downtown is the historic core of our village. Our Historic Preservation Commission works to preserve our historic structures for today and future generations.
8. Downtown represents a significant amount of public and private investment.
9. Downtown is a major tourist draw.
10. Downtown is our government center.
11. Downtown provides a sense of community and place. Nowhere else can offer that.



Federal Register Historic Landmarked Building at 11 Middle Neck Road.



Deputy Mayor Rosen Hosts Zoom Meetings on COVID-19 Pandemic

The Village of Great Neck Plaza recently hosted two free Zoom video conferences for village residents and businesses. The most recent one was on Aug. 20th and specifically sought to provide village businesses with important information about loan and other programs available from the federal, state and local governments to assist small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ted Rosen, Deputy Mayor who organized the speakers for the Aug. 20th session explained “our village businesses are vital and helping them during these difficult times is of the utmost importance. The Village will continue to work with our businesses to make them as safe, welcoming and inviting as possible and to assist our businesses in fully participating in available federal, state and county programs.”

Speakers during the Aug. 20th Zoom conference included Rich Belziti, Superintendent of the Village’s Building Dept., Robert J. Piechota, Branch Manager, Long Island, New York Office, United States Small Business Administration, Huey-Min Chuang, Senior Director of Business and Economic Development, New York State Empire State Development, Deputy Nassau County Executive Evlyn Tsimis and Nassau County Special Assistant for Economic Development Kendra Armstead.

A question and answer period followed the presentations. Superintendent Belziti explained how the Village has been helping village businesses. He explained that he and other village employees worked hard to make sure that the local business owners knew and understood the applicable regulations and then worked with them to open their businesses to the public in compliance with the regulations and to make the businesses as safe and as inviting to the public as possible. Superintendent Belziti stated the worked with village restaurants and other establishments to maximize available outdoor space.

Deputy Mayor Rosen explained that “a number of small business owners may feel that applying for available government assistance programs is challenging and involves much red tape. In fact this may not be true at all in many cases. While the Village does not administer the federal, state and county programs, the Village believes it is important

that the Village be a conduit between the federal, state and county governments and our businesses to provide them the necessary information and assist them in the application process.”

Joining Deputy Mayor Rosen were Trustee Pam Marksheid and Board of Zoning and Appeals Chair Michael DeLuccia, both of whom assisted in organizing the conference. Mayor Jean Celender also joined and offered welcoming remarks.

One program that was discussed by Director Chuang of New York State Empire State Development was the New York Forward Loan Fund, which is a \$100 million dollar economic recovery loan program aimed at supporting New York State small businesses, nonprofits and small landlords as they reopen after the COVID-19 Outbreak and New York State on PAUSE.

For additional information, please call Ted Rosen, Deputy Mayor, Village of Great Neck Plaza at [516] 487-6988 or email him at TMRosenlaw@aol.com.

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Our DPW crew worked tirelessly for days to help clean up debris, cut down tree branches, and coordinate with property owners and the utilities regarding work orders for restoration of services.

If you lost power for more than 72 hours, you can file a claim for reimbursement of spoiled food. Also, some medications need to be refrigerated and that too can be claimed. You can find the information and claim form below:

Isaias: PSEG LI Reimbursing For Spoiled Groceries, Drugs, and will reimburse homes and businesses. Here's how to apply and who is eligible.

PSEGLongIslandClaims@pseg.com.

Requests for reimbursement must be submitted on or before September 16, 2020.

To qualify for the reimbursement, the following conditions must apply:

- Must be a PSEG Long Island customer of record as of 8/4/2020.
- Outage must have been caused by Tropical Storm Isaias, and lasted longer than 72 hours anytime during the time period of 8/4/2020 and 8/12/2020.

Open Dining & Movie Nights

During the COVID-19 pandemic we've increased the amount of outdoor dining through temporary permits issued to restaurants. We know their interior restrictions on restaurants and food establishments by Executive Order in New York State were a financial hardship and this allows them to increase sales by extra tables and chairs outside of their premises. Besides, most patrons like to seat outdoors during the warm summer months when the weather is nice. People contact the Village and want to know what to do. We tell them — wear a mask when entering and leaving, maintain a safe distance from other groups (6 feet minimum), don't go out if you're feeling ill.

Other tips to consider when dining out are the following:

Don't Crowd Around The Restaurant When Waiting To Be Seated

Per Governor Cuomo's executive order, restaurants must maintain order and crowding within 100 feet of their establishment. So if people stand around waiting, not only does this present a health risk to the crowd, but it also puts the restaurant at risk of a penalty. The respectful thing to do when waiting for a table is to go for a stroll until it's time to be seated. Happily, there's plenty to explore on a walk in downtown Great Neck Plaza.

Don't Move Seats Or Ask To Switch Tables After Being Seated

Tables must be fully sanitized after each use, so a change request creates more work for wait staff in addition to increasing everyone's risk of exposure. Restaurant owners recommend avoiding moving your chairs around: "If chairs were added or moved, then tables wouldn't be the state-mandated six feet apart from one another anymore."

Keep Your Mask On Until Your Food Arrives

Once seated, customers are technically allowed to remove their face coverings, so this tip is a matter of individual discretion and consideration for wait staff. Eater's guide to outdoor dining notes that "restaurants can encourage, but not require customers to keep masks on while not actively

drinking or eating." Restaurant owners said it was important, for the sake of staff safety, for patrons to keep masks on when first seated and while ordering.

Don't Ask Friends To Join You For Drinks After You've Already Eaten

"Per the governor's rules, restaurants can't serve patrons alcoholic beverages if they aren't ordering food to go." Additionally, adding extra chairs to a table makes it difficult for restaurants to keep diners at the required social distance. Since the state has instituted a "three strikes and you're closed" rule, it's important not to put your favorite establishments at risk of a strike.

Be Nice And Tip Really Well

Restaurant workers are facing extraordinary challenges right now, so consider it an investment in a spot you like and hope to frequent again when the pandemic ends.

In cooperation with our Business Improvement District (BID), we have also hosted several Movie Nights on both Middle Neck Road and Bond Street. The roadways are temporarily closed down to permit the adjoining restaurants to come outdoors. Residents always request these nights, as the summer is a special time to enjoy the nice, warm weather and dine al fresco. The Open Street Pilot Program was an initiative offered this summer by the Nassau County Department of Public Works to accommodate such a program and include coordination with Nassau County Police Department, NICE Bus, emergency services and the Department of Health. The Village has been doing this coordination since we have had such nights dating back to 2007, but we appreciate that the County has implemented this initiative and offered their support to downtown Villages to help streamline the process. These nights may go into September, so look for any upcoming dates. We all want the downtown business district to recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and urge you to support our businesses. If you have any questions, please contact Village Hall at (516) 482-4500, or the BID at (516) 829-1301 or ShopGreatNeck.com.

VILLAGE OF GREAT NECK PLAZA

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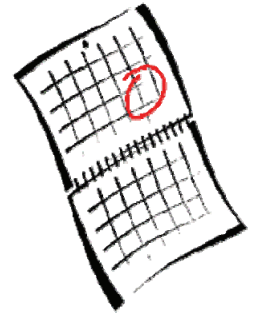
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We're on the web...
www.greatneckplaza.org



Dates to Remember:

- **Thursday, September 3rd** - First Day of School at Great Neck Union Free School District
- **Wednesday, September 2nd & 16th**, Board of Trustees Meetings, Village Hall, 8 P.M.
- **Village Elections, Tues., September 15th**, 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. at Village Hall, 2 Gussack Plaza
- **Monday, September 21st** - 4th Quarter Parking Permit Purchase/Renewal Period Begins
- **Monday, October 12th** - Columbus Day. **Please Note, Village Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.**

The Plaza Welcomes New Merchants

The Village is happy to welcome new businesses that are coming, have opened or have recently expanded their business within the Plaza. Stop in and greet these merchants and say "hello." If you are a new storeowner in town, new management, or are celebrating a milestone anniversary, the Plaza would be happy to provide a free Ribbon Cutting Ceremony or help you celebrate your event. Just call the Mayor's Office at 482-4500. Some recent additions are:

Miu Miu's Eyelash Extension, moving to 46A Middle Neck Road after force majeure in original location at 7 Cutter Mill Road (fire).

Dr. Tomer T. Levin, Psychiatric Office, 49 Cutter Mill Road (929) 445-7558

Neo De Pure Salon, 25 Cutter Mill Road, Unit 10. (516) 376-7693 ** Now Open **

Station Plaza Deli, 14 South Station Plaza, (516) 226-3448 ** Now Open**

The Village of Great Neck Plaza is delighted to officially welcome the opening of HSBC. The new branch features two full-serviced ATMs and contributes to the vibrant downtown area that the Plaza and Nassau County needs. "HSBC has had plans to have this location in Great Neck for some years now," Branch Mgr. Supriya Jagnanan said, "but we're so lucky to have waited for such a great spot as this to call home." The branch is located at 57 Middle Neck Road (Grace Ave.).

